

Senator JEANNE SHAHEEN was the first woman in the State of New Hampshire to be elected Governor in 1997. She is currently serving as the first female senator from the State of New Hampshire.

The first woman to serve as a member of the New Hampshire State Senate was E. Maude Ferguson, who served from 1931 to 1933.

Vesta Roy served as the first female State Senate President, and in 1983 she became the first female Governor of the State of New Hampshire.

In 1994, the Honorable Sylvia Larsen was elected to the New Hampshire State Senate and has served 7 consecutive terms thus far. She is currently serving in her second term as President of the New Hampshire Senate.

In 1996, the Honorable Terie Norelli was elected to the New Hampshire House of Representatives and has served 6 consecutive terms thus far, and in 2008 was re-elected to serve as Speaker of the New Hampshire House of Representatives for a 2nd consecutive term.

Thank you for bringing this important resolution on the New Hampshire State Senate's historic achievement of being the first statewide legislative body with a majority of women in the United States to the floor of the House of Representatives for consideration. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY, MRS.
HELEN GARGASH

HON. MICHAEL A. ARCURI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Mr. ARCURI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mrs. Helen Gargash, a resident of my district in Upstate New York, who today celebrates her 100th birthday.

Mrs. Gargash was born on November 3, 1909 as the eldest of four children and spent her childhood on a farm outside Amsterdam, New York. After leaving home to attend school, Mrs. Gargash worked at A.D. Julliard in New York Mills, New York and met her husband, Mr. John Gargash, to whom she was married for over 50 years. Together they have three children, eight grandchildren and several great grandchildren.

Over the years, Mrs. Gargash was employed at the former Griffiss Air Force Base and Mele Manufacturing, from which she eventually retired. As a member of various seniors' groups, Mrs. Gargash served often during her retirement as a volunteer at the Utica State Hospital. She was a communicant of St. Joseph-St. Patrick Church for many years until moving to Country Club Courts in New York Mills, New York. There she has enjoyed almost daily visits to the New Hartford Nutrition Center and continues to cook some of her favorite dishes, among them Spanish rice, chicken soup and mushroom stew.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Mrs. Gargash on this joyous occasion. I ask that my colleagues join me in wishing her many more years of health and happiness.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, on roll-call Nos. 832, 833, 834 I missed the votes due to other official business in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

**HONORING PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S
GETTYSBURG ADDRESS**

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2009

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 736, which honors the anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address as "Dedication Day" on November 19, 2009. I am proud to have introduced this resolution as we celebrate the bicentennial of President Lincoln's birthday in 2009 and remember the words of this most remarkable speech.

Arriving by train to Gettysburg on the evening of November 18, 1863, few knew the impact Lincoln's words would have on the future of our Nation and its citizens. The Address' message was one of paying tribute to those who lost their lives while at the same time affirming a belief that democracy may prevail despite the immeasurable losses suffered by both the North and South.

Lincoln's speech was just over two minutes in length, but its meaning has long endured. Nearly 63 years ago, Congress passed a joint resolution designating November 19, 1946, the anniversary of the Gettysburg Address, as Dedication Day and declaring the Gettysburg Address to be "the outstanding classic of the ages." The resolution suggested that the Gettysburg Address "be read on that day in public assemblages throughout the United States and its possessions, on our ships at sea, and wherever the American flag flies." Additionally, lines from the Gettysburg Address can be found in Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech, and its entirety is marked a short distance from where we stand today, on the south wall of the Lincoln Memorial.

During this bicentennial year of Lincoln's birth, the National Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission and the Pennsylvania Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, which have both endorsed this resolution, are holding numerous events celebrating the life and legacy of our sixteenth President. On November 19, 2009 the Pennsylvania Abraham Lincoln Commission is hosting "Dedication Day," with events occurring at the Soldiers' National Cemetery in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, the site of President Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. As we celebrate Lincoln's bicentennial, I urge my fellow Members of Congress and constituents to take time to read the words of this remarkable speech:

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth, upon this continent, a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that 'all men are created equal.' Now we are engaged in a great civil

war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived, and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of it, as a final resting place for those who died here, that the nation might live. This we may, in all propriety do. But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate—we can not consecrate—we can not hallow, this ground—The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have hallowed it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here; while it can never forget what they did here.

It is rather for us, the living, we here be dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that, from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they here, gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve these dead shall not have died in vain; that the nation, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people by the people for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

Two centuries after his birth, the message of the Gettysburg Address is as significant as ever. As such, please join me in paying tribute to one of our Nation's most important speeches and support House Resolution 736.

TRIBUTE TO KATHRYN WOLT

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Kathryn Wolt from Ames, Iowa for her commitment and enthusiasm as a foreign language student at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana.

Kathryn has been selected for a United States Department of State Critical Language Scholarship to study the Russian language in Astrakhan, Russia. This Department of State program is an important component of the federal government's coordinated effort to expand the number of Americans learning foreign languages.

I consider it a great honor to represent Kathryn Wolt in the United States Congress, and I know that my colleagues join me in congratulating her on earning this special scholarship. I wish Kathryn great success in the program, her travel and in her future endeavors.

ASIAN AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AND MR. GARY MITCHELL

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with sincere admiration that I recognize the Asian American Medical Association, which will be hosting its 33rd Annual Gala on Saturday, November 7, 2009, at the Avalon Manor in Merrillville, Indiana. Each year, the Asian American Medical Association pays tribute to prominent, outstanding citizens and organizations for their contributions to the community. In recognition of their efforts, these honorees are awarded the prestigious Crystal Globe Award each year at this annual banquet.

The Asian American Medical Association has always been a great asset to Northwest Indiana. Its members have selflessly dedicated themselves to providing quality medical service to the residents of Indiana's First Congressional District, and they have always demonstrated exemplary service through their many cultural, scholastic, and charitable endeavors.

At this year's charity ball, the Asian American Medical Association will present the Crystal Globe Award to one of Northwest Indiana's finest citizens, Mr. Gary Mitchell, President and CEO of Opportunity Enterprises, Inc., a non-profit organization that serves to create opportunities for individuals with unique challenges and abilities. From the beginning, social work was not only a career choice for Gary but a way of life. Focused on his calling, Gary graduated from Ball State University with a bachelor's degree in social work and went on to receive his master's degree in social work from Indiana University. After college, Gary held many positions in the social service field, and he also has years of experience in business and industry.

In 1986, Gary joined the team at Opportunity Enterprises as the Chief Executive Officer. Opportunity Enterprises has enjoyed unprecedented success under Gary's leadership. The company has continued to grow and expand. In 1986, the organization served 263 individuals with disabilities on a daily basis. Since then, Opportunity Enterprises has shown immense growth and now serves over 1,000 individuals. Gary has made it his goal to provide day services, residential programs, and vocational opportunities for individuals of all ages, whether they have physical, emotional, or developmental disabilities. For the past 15 years, Opportunity Enterprises has received the three-year accreditation for the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), a not-for-profit organization that establishes standards of quality for service to people with disabilities. In addition, for his efforts on behalf of his community, Gary has received numerous honors, including the President's Award in 1992 and the Sagamore of the Wabash in 1993 from then-Governor of Indiana, EVAN BAYH. For his selfless and passionate support for helping individuals to re-establish their roles in community life, Gary is to be commended and admired. He is truly an inspiration.

Gary's dedication to the people he serves is matched only by his devotion to his family. Gary has been married to his wife, Paula, for 42 years. They have three children and seven grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending the Asian American Medical Association, as well as this year's Crystal Globe Award recipient, Mr. Gary Mitchell, for their outstanding contributions to their communities and beyond. Their unwavering commitment to improving the quality of life for the people of Northwest Indiana and throughout the United States is truly inspirational. For these reasons, the Asian American Medical Association, its members, and Mr. Mitchell are to be recognized, and I am proud to serve as their representative in Washington, D.C.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA DISTRICT ATTORNEY ESTABLISHMENT ACT OF 2009

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today I introduce the District of Columbia District Attorney Establishment Act of 2009, continuing a series of bills that I will introduce this session to ensure a continuation of the process of the transition to full democracy and self-government for the residents of the District of Columbia. This bill is the seventh in our "Free and Equal D.C." series of bills to eliminate anti-Home Rule legislation and to remedy obsolete or inappropriate congressional laws to the local affairs of the District of Columbia or denials of federal benefits or recognition routinely granted to other jurisdictions.

This bill would establish an Office of District Attorney for the District of Columbia, to be headed by a district attorney elected by D.C. residents. This bill would effectuate the November 2002 referendum in which D.C. voters overwhelmingly (82 percent) approved a locally elected District Attorney.

This important legislation is designed to put the District of Columbia on par with every other local jurisdiction in the country by allowing D.C. residents to elect an independent district attorney to prosecute local criminal and civil matters now handled by the U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia, a federal official. Under this bill, the new, locally elected district attorney would become the city's chief legal officer. The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia would remain and, like other U.S. Attorneys' offices in the U.S., would handle only the federal matters under its jurisdiction. As presently constituted, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District is the largest in the country only because it serves mainly as the local city prosecutor. The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia needs to be freed up to handle national security and other vital federal cases, particularly in the post-9/11 nation's capital.

There is no law enforcement issue of greater importance to our residents, or on which we have less say, than the prosecution of local crimes here. A U.S. Attorney has no business in the local criminal affairs of a local jurisdiction. This bill simply would make the District's prosecutor accountable to the people by electing him or her, as elsewhere in the nation.

In addition to issues of democracy and self-government, such as congressional voting rights and legislative and budget autonomy, that District residents are entitled to as American citizens, residents are determined to achieve each and every other element of home rule. Amending the District's Home Rule Act to create a local district attorney position would be an important development toward our goal of achieving true self-government. I urge my colleagues to support this important measure.

CHINESE HUMAN RIGHTS ATTORNEYS TESTIFY BEFORE THE TOM LANTOS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of my colleagues to the following testimonies of two Chinese human rights attorneys who submitted testimony for a hearing last week of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission.

[Written Testimony submitted to the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission on the rule of law in China, Oct. 29, 2009]

ON THE RELIGIOUS CASE IN SHANXI AND THE STATUS OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN CHINA

(By Mr. Dai Jinbo)

I. THE STATUS OF CHINA'S RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN RECENT YEARS

Since the release of the Regulations on Religious Affairs (hereafter abbreviated as Regulations) by China's State Council in 2004, house churches and other unregistered religious organizations have all been regarded as illegal by the ruling administration. House churches that do not want to join TSPM (Three-Self Patriotic Movement) churches, due to disagreement concerning their beliefs, have become targeted because they refuse to acquire administrative approval by registering their house church as a religious organization. The Regulations have become the basis for government departments to carry out selective law enforcement on unregistered religious organizations including house churches. This is also a result of China's institutionalization of religious issues.

Therefore, with the official implementation of the Regulations in 2005, house churches in various places have all faced or have experienced being banned, fined and/or requested to suspend their religious activities by the government. This can cause such administrative sanctions against them on the grounds that they are not registered. In terms of banning, there are various kinds of different rulings authorizing the ban. These rulings include administrative penalties meted out by the religion management departments to ban illegal religious organizations, ban illegal venues for religious activities and ban illegal Bible training workshops. The religious affairs departments also manage civil affairs departments and use their capacity as a governing entity for social organizations and religious organizations to ban and crack down on house churches on grounds that they are illegal social organizations. An example is the persecution experienced by the Autumn Rain Church in Chengdu in June 2009. Even public security agencies would also interfere in the internal affairs of religious organizations and prevent them from making progress towards autonomy. Further evidence of this type of religious persecution is the case in Baixiang, Wenzhou, in March 2009.

While the Chinese government was attempting to control and crack down on unregistered religious organizations, including house churches, these unregistered religious organizations did not succumb. Instead, they took the path of defending their rights in accordance with Chinese law. By defending their rights, they have exposed the Chinese government's violation of the rule of law and the principle of human rights. While cracking down on unregistered religious organizations on grounds that they are not registered, it is a violation of the international